

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1910.



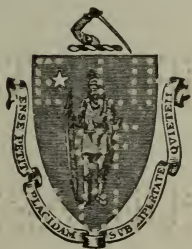
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OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER. THEO. L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM.
ADDRESS, PRINCETON, MASS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The commission makes the following report of its doings and of the condition of the reservation for the year 1909 : —

It will, of course, be realized that, under the provisions of the act which created it, the character of work to be done from year to year changes very little, and that therefore the report of the commission is little more than a statement of the superintendent of work done under his direction.

The cost of maintaining the reservation, under the law, is borne by the county of Worcester, and the Board makes its report of expenditures to the county commissioners of Worcester County.

The unexpended balance of the \$5,000 appropriated by the Legislature in 1907, in the hands of the commission at the close of the year 1908, was \$109. A statement is included in this report of the expenditure of the whole of that sum, which includes the statement made last year.

It will be seen from that statement that the reservation has been somewhat enlarged by the expenditure of this money, and that the reservation now comprises all the commission thinks should be included in it.

Out of the money provided by the county of Worcester the reservation has been kept in good condition ; its roads have been improved and some new ones constructed ; its foresting operations have been continued, as in the past ; and a great many thousands of young trees have been planted on the waste area of the mountain.

The hotel at the top of the mountain, which was built at the expense of the county of Worcester, has proved a very attractive feature to the public, and has drawn more people to the reservation during the past year than ever before. The stable accommodations and the garage for the housing of automobiles have enabled people from a distance to secure accommodations which are satisfactory and appear to meet the approval of visitors.

As this is an interesting portion of Worcester County, and is the highest land east of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts, it naturally attracts a great many visitors from all parts of the State, as well as a good many from outside.

Attached to this report will be found the statement of the superintendent.

The following is a statement of the expenditures of the commission out of the \$5,000 appropriated in 1907:—

Appropriation,	\$5,000 00
Paid Hobart Raymond,	\$2,300 00
Paid heirs of Caleb Woodward,	1,500 00
Paid John P. Roper,	291 00
Paid Ambrose E. Weston,	600 00
Paid Flora Plimpton,	75 00
Paid Charles F. Baker,	84 00
Paid Elliot Peabody, legal services,	150 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,000 00

HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,
Commissioners.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:— The work on the reservation throughout the past year has been a continuation of the original policy.

A tract of about five acres of red oak, which was deteriorating, owing to breakage caused by ice storms, was cleared. Some of the lumber was used in improving and enlarging the barn on the summit and for other repairs. The rest of the logs we will cart to some near-by chair shop. We will restock this with white pine.

In the spring some repairs and improvements were completed on the summit. The old barn was torn down and the cellar filled and graded. This makes a level spot for a croquet ground for the amusement of guests. The other barn was extensively repaired and enlarged, and a good-sized garage was added to it. The outbuildings were painted. Quite a little filling in and grading were done about the hotel, and an attractive guard wall was built. All this added much to the attractiveness of the summit. By trimming out a line and setting poles, we were able to place a New England long-distance telephone at the Summit House.

About seventeen thousand pine seedlings were transplanted in various sections of the reservation. I am sorry to report that, owing to the very dry weather through the summer, the young transplants have not thrived as well as in the past, especially in the dry and sandy soils.

The hotel was leased for the season to Mr. Charles Horne and was run in a very satisfactory manner. A large increase in the attendance at the summit has been noticed. This, I think, is owing to the new hotel and the opening of the road to automobiles. I am pleased to report that, although

at the least a thousand machines were run to the summit through the season, not one accident was reported. I think this shows that with due care an accident is entirely unnecessary.

The work on the Administration Road, which was discontinued two years ago in order to build the new Summit House, was resumed. This road starts at the South Road and runs through the center of the reservation, a distance of about 8,400 feet, to the North Road, and makes a good addition to the roads on the reservation. This will be completed in the spring.

The driveway over Echo Lake dam was widened, and a rough wall and fence built on the inner side, making it safe for teams to pass each other.

I am sorry to report that three large fox hounds broke into the deer park, and, before they could be shot, had killed one buck deer and injured two others so they had to be shot.

Taking No. 13, containing 7.1 acres, owned by Charles F. Baker, was added to the reservation.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. NEEDHAM,
Superintendent.

PRINCETON, MASS., Jan. 1, 1910.